

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
AND PUBLIC FACILITIES  
DIVISION OF STATEWIDE PLANNING

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April 11, 2002

Mr. Robert S. Juettner  
Administrator, Aleutians East Borough  
1600 "A" Street, Suite 103  
Anchorage, AK 99501-5 146

Dear Mr. Juettner:

Thank you for your letter of March 5 concerning the Southwest Alaska Transportation Plan. In it you brought up concerns related to air transportation and the Pacific Coast Marine Corridor. I will attempt to address those concerns here.

We appreciate the historical background information concerning Cold Bay airport, as well as your ideas for the potential use of Cold Bay as the preferred Aleutian hub of the future. Concerning hub status, we are adding a table to the aviation section to help clear up confusion regarding terminology. We reiterate Cold Bay's importance as one of the ten key airports highlighted in the plan. The listing of individual airports as primary hub (FAA category) is determined by recent enplanement data that we have no control over. Note we show Cold Bay as a secondary subregional hub on page 49. As far as future usage goes, these matters tend to be industry- and market-driven, as opposed to government-determined.

Concerning your comment on the Pacific Coast Marine Corridor regarding *Tustumena's* King Cove/Cold Bay routing, we are reconsidering the suggested routing scheme in light of several comments received. Recent experience employing *Kennicott* within the region on a temporary basis has caused us to adjust wording more favorably regarding its potential use in Southwest Alaska as well. Ultimately, however, the deployment of flexible assets such as *Kennicott* and *Tustumena* is an operational and not a planning decision.

The reality of current state budget shortfalls makes any improvement in ferry service problematic in the absence of new and substantial revenue sources. While we remain hopeful in the long run, we see an arduous process ahead for Alaskans in general and state legislators in particular to determine which government -provided services are important enough to fund and therefore to raise revenue for. So we encourage your continued and persistent dialogue with our elected officials.

Thank you again for your valued input. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



J. Eric Taylor, Planner III  
Area Plans Coordinator

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